(b) to (d) The National Design Policy announced on 8th February 2007 envisages raising of Indian design education to global standards of excellence. The Action Plan for implementation of the Policy involves, *inter alia*, setting up of four more National Institutes of Design on the pattern of NID, Ahmedabad during the 11th Five Year Plan. There is so far no proposal to set up a National Institute of Design (NID) in Himachal Pradesh.

Stockpiling of carpets with manufacturers

1377. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a stockpile of carpets with carpet manufacturers in Bhadohi near Varanasi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that low demand is due to absence of western buyers, absence of clear tax regime, non availability of special incentives, bank credit etc.; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to help the industry on these counts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi has brought to the knowledge of Government that some of its member exporters have reported that there is a stockpile of carpets with various carpet manufacturers in India including Carpet Manufacturer in Bhadohi near Varanasi due to lack of demand from importing countries due to world-wide recession.

(c) The steps being taken to help the Carpet Industry include: participation in Fairs/Exhibitions abroad; organizing Carpet Expo at New Delhi and Varanasi annually, organizing Thematic exhibition, development of innovative value added products through Product Development Programmes, Organizing programmes for packaging and export procedure, organization of buyer-sellers meet and brand image promotion of Indian Carpets abroad etc.

External borrowings to SEZs

1378. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has notified its policy on external borrowings for SEZs; and

(b) if so, the details of the notification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) According to revised guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India, SEZ developers can also avail of External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) under the Approval route for providing infrastructure facilities as defined in the ECB policy, within the SEZ.

Steps to protect Indian exporters from world recession

1379. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: